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17 September 1960

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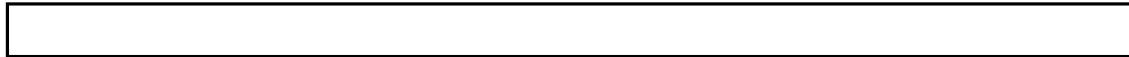
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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN



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DAILY BRIEF

I. THE COMMUNIST BLOC

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USSR-UN: The USSR is apparently seeking such changes in normal UN procedures as would permit Khrushchev to participate in substantive committee debate on disarmament in addition to his speeches to the full General Assembly. The political committee of the General Assembly--whose major item of business is disarmament--does not usually meet until after the one- or two-week period of general opening statements is over. The USSR is trying to change this practice, as the committee might not otherwise meet until after Khrushchev had departed. According to the Polish UN delegate, the USSR will request that the assembly divide each day's work into two parts, general debate in the morning in the General Assembly and disarmament debate in the political committee in the afternoon. *20*

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II. ASIA-AFRICA

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Somali Republic - Communist Bloc: The Somali Republic has decided to permit five Communist bloc countries--the USSR, Czechoslovakia, Bulgaria, Hungary, and Albania--to establish diplomatic missions in Mogadiscio. Bids from Communist and Nationalist China were turned down, but a Somali foreign affairs official implied that Mogadiscio might reconsider Peiping's request at a later date. Regarding the subject of aid to the new republic, the Somali official indicated his government would accept bloc aid if the West does not meet the country's needs.

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DAILY BRIEF

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III. THE WEST

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Germany: [At a meeting of the three Western Allied chiefs of mission in Bonn with Acting Chancellor Erhard, the French and British representatives expressed reservation with respect to the imposition of economic countermeasures by West Germany against the Soviet Zone's recent interference with access to West Berlin. Although US Ambassador Dowling urged that the time had come to take such measures and that the Federal Republic was the only country in a position to apply effective sanctions, Erhard said no initiative could be taken without prior agreement among the four powers.]

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LATE ITEMS

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*Laos: Souvanna Phouma, still casting about for a solution to the political crisis, has asked the King to dismiss General Phoumi from the cabinet. Presumably in an earlier attempt at conciliation, he had offered Phoumi two companies of King Le's troops to reinforce Sam Neua Province, under growing pressure from Pathet Lao forces. Phoumi's reported rebuff of this offer, which would remove from Vientiane a sizable portion of the opposition troops that Phoumi claimed prevent his return, points to his continuing unwillingness to arrive at any terms with the Souvanna regime. Prince Souphanouvong meanwhile has sent a message to Souvanna which, although holding open the possibility of negotiations, declares that Pathet Lao armed units will continue to oppose the Phoumi - Boun Oum group which he charges is carrying out "the schemes of aggression and war of US imperialism."

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DAILY BRIEF

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Soviet Bloc Tactics at 15th UN General Assembly

The USSR is apparently seeking changes in usual UN procedures to permit Khrushchev to participate in substantive committee debate on disarmament in addition to his speeches to the full General Assembly. According to the Polish delegate, the USSR will request that the assembly divide each day's work into two parts: general debate in the morning in the General Assembly and disarmament debate in the political committee in the afternoon.

The political committee of the General Assembly--whose major item of business is disarmament--does not usually meet until after the one- or two-week period of general statements is over. If it followed that procedure this year, it might not meet until after Khrushchev had departed. The Soviet premier is scheduled to be in North Korea in early October.

If successful, the Soviet move would give Khrushchev an opportunity to exercise personal influence on other heads of government in order to obtain early action in the political committee in support of the Soviet approach to future disarmament negotiations. Nehru now is expected to be in New York during the early part of the assembly.

In his major address to the assembly Khrushchev will probably propose that any future talks on disarmament include key neutral states. He probably hopes thereby to enlist Afro-Asian support for a subsequent resolution endorsing his call for complete and general disarmament. Within this context he also intends to advance proposals designed to appear responsive to Western disarmament policies, including a plan for immediate destruction of all nuclear weapons delivery systems as a first step, according to a Polish official at the UN. The Soviet premier will also propose control measures which would differentiate between "espionage and inspection" and have the appearance of meeting Western conditions for disarmament controls.

General Assembly presidential candidate Frederick Boland of Ireland believes that, under these circumstances, Nosek of

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Czechoslovakia would step down as candidate for assembly president and seek instead the chairmanship of the political committee, an office he would have a better chance of winning. Boland would then be assured of the presidency, since the only other candidate, Thors of Iceland, is not considered a strong contender.

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Somali Republic to Establish Early Ties With Communist Bloc

The newly independent Somali Republic decided on 10 September to accede to requests by five Communist bloc countries--the USSR, Czechoslovakia, Bulgaria, Hungary, and Albania--to establish diplomatic missions in Mogadiscio. This decision may have been influenced by the country's precarious financial position and by Mogadiscio's desire to be in a position to accept bloc aid should traditional Western sources fail to come through. A Somali official in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs commented to the American ambassador recently that his government would not refuse aid from the Communist bloc if the West did not meet the country's needs.

The Somali official also commented that requests to establish missions by both Communist and Nationalist China were "turned down for the time being," but implied that Peiping's request might be reconsidered later. Although not invited to the Somali independence ceremonies in July, Peiping sent a four-man Chinese Communist Moslem delegation in August in an obvious attempt to reassure the Somalis that Communism is not incompatible with Islam.

Moscow has repeatedly indicated its interest in establishing its official presence in Mogadiscio since March 1958 when the USSR's first attempt to set up permanent representatives in Mogadiscio was rebuffed by Italy, the then administering power in Somalia. The USSR's delegation to the Somali independence celebration--augmented by three motion picture photographers, a correspondent each from Izvestia and Pravda, and a TASS representative--ostentatiously distributed expensive gifts to numerous Somali officials, interviewed a large number of scholarship applicants, and pressed for an immediate exchange of diplomatic missions.

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Situation in Laos

The Souvanna Phouma government has voted to dismiss General Phoumi from his various posts in the cabinet and has asked the King to sign an ordinance giving legal effect to this decision. Similar action has been taken against Minister of Economic Affairs Leuam, who, along with Phoumi, remained in Savannakhet after investiture of the Souvanna government early this month. The King, despite his apparent sympathy for Phoumi, may feel constrained under constitutional procedure to accede to the government's request.

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[As examples of Phoumi's intransigence, Souvanna informed Ambassador Brown on 15 September that he had attempted to call a conference of Laos' five military region commanders to reconcile differences but that Phoumi had refused to permit the Second, Third, and Fourth Region commanders to attend. The premier also claimed that he had offered to send two companies of Captain Kong Le's Second Paratroop Battalion to Sam Neua Province to help meet the growing Pathet Lao threat there but that Phoumi had refused the offer. Phoumi's rebuff of this offer, which would have materially depleted Kong Le's strength in the Vientiane area, points to his continuing unwillingness to arrive at any terms with the Souvanna regime.]

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[The American army attaché flew to Sam Neua town on 15 September for a first-hand observation of the military situation there. The local Laotian commander informed him that approximately two Pathet Lao battalions and two battalions of tribal Thai trained in North Vietnam had been attacking outlying posts since about 4 September. As the result of these attacks the commander is out of contact with four companies dispersed in the jungle. The balance of his forces have abandoned forward positions and are withdrawing toward Sam Neua town. He claims that the tribal Thai units have North Vietnamese cadre, that they came from North Vietnam, and that they were trained and supported by the]

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[REDACTED] North Vietnamese. The attaché comments that while the strength of the enemy probably is exaggerated, the situation in Sam Neua Province is serious.]

Pathet Lao Neo Lao Hak Sat leader Prince Souphanouvong, in a statement on Souvanna's now-suspended bid for negotiations, announced over the Pathet Lao radio that his group is ready to participate in such talks "when and if assurance is given the negotiations will be fruitful." Meanwhile, according to Souphanouvong, "armed Pathet Lao units" will continue to oppose the Phoumi - Boun Oum clique which he charges is carrying out "the schemes of aggression and war of US imperialism." He admonishes Souvanna that only by stopping "persecution and terrorism" at home and entering into relations with Sino-Soviet bloc countries can "the government muster enough strength to fight the rebels and foreign intervention."

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